



**Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership  
Program Performance Report II to USAID Namibia  
December 22, 2005**

**USAID Global Development Alliance  
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## **Overview**

As the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership nears the completion of its 3-year project with USAID in Namibia, we are pleased to report that the project objectives specified in our original proposal have been achieved or exceeded. The Learning Center project continues to be recognized as a successful and sustainable educational initiative that serves the information needs of under-resourced communities throughout the country.

Over the past six months, the Partnership's work in the USAID/MCN Learning Centers in Namibia has focused primarily on training and outreach initiatives. Following the Partnership training schedule, these Learning Centers are in a phase where the focus is to prepare them to be successful after "graduation" – or the end of the three-year period of training and monitoring. The Partnership's master trainer for Southern Africa spent two weeks working with all the schools in Ondangwa and Rundu, observing the teachers and providing further training to ensure that teachers continue to make significant links between the video images and lesson plans and maintain the equipment within each Learning Center. The result: all teachers within the scope of the project in those areas have been thoroughly trained on the fundamentals of the video technology and instructional content.

Moreover, the monitoring and evaluation visits that Partnership staff have completed over the past half-year have yielded an important finding: all of the Learning Centers continue to use the donated equipment with the frequency and attention to lesson planning originally outlined in our project plan. This is a strong testament to the value that each community places on the equipment and to the role that videos have played in advancing educational inclusion and student enthusiasm. In the time remaining before the formal project close, the Partnership will focus primarily on ensuring that schools are equipped with the skills required to sustain the Learning Centers.

Our work in Namibia has not only produced a renewed sense of teacher enthusiasm, as evidenced by the resurgent dedication to training and applying the Partnership resources to daily instruction; it has also generated a strong sense of community collaboration in the pursuit of learning. Much of the qualitative evidence gathered through our monitoring and evaluation visits is aligned with the quantitative evidence that we have found through formal research in other countries: The Learning Centers highlight to communities the importance of educating their children and themselves; they renew hope and energy in the pursuit of learning; and link relevant educational content with images that expand students' horizons, imagination, and potential.

Given the success of the 3-year pilot project in the country, we believe that a unique opportunity exists in Namibia to strategically expand the Learning Center model throughout other provinces. The Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership continues to receive requests from schools, organizations, and Peace Corps volunteers in the country to join the project and to expose their learners and communities to our educational resources. We believe the timing is right to now raise and apply substantive funding towards the expansion of additional learning centers throughout the country.

We are interested in continuing the momentum set by our current partnership with USAID and MultiChoice. The lessons learned from three years of operation in Namibia – and elsewhere – have established the foundation for future growth there. The following report will outline the accomplishments of the past six months, in particular, and encourage future dialog for developing channels for follow-on funding that opens new Learning Center clusters throughout Namibia.

### Learning Center Project Status

<b>Location:</b>	Namibia
<b>Project began in schools</b>	April 2003 for 12 USAID/MCN sites March 2004 for the 6 AAI sites
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years from date of launch
<b>Number of Learning Centres:</b>	18
<b>Number of teachers trained:</b>	667
<b>Number of students currently reached:</b>	21,009
<b>Number of community members with access to the project:</b>	Approximately 63,000

The Partnership is pleased to report that the 18 Learning Centers jointly supported by USAID-Namibia, MultiChoice-Namibia and the Africa-America Institute are progressing well in the third and second years of the project, respectively. Our focus with the schools is to ensure sustainability after the completion of the three-year project period in early 2006. To that point, we are taking the following steps to prepare for the official end of the project in June 2006:

- Meet the Ministry of Education (NIED and EPI directorates) to debrief them on the project success and possible expansion opportunities.
- Arrange a final workshop to the schools that will focus on sustainable techniques after the Learning Centers have graduated.
- Implement Learning Center refresher workshops where needed.
- Add new educational videos produced in 2005-2006 to the existing educational library of programming.
- Apply to USAID for a No Cost Extension and budget re-alignment that will allow the Partnership to better focus under-utilized resources toward areas designed to increase Learning Center sustainability, such as in training.

The following table outlines the status and geographic location of each school. All schools that are in Phase 6 were funded by USAID/MultiChoice and will graduate in April 2006. This means that the Partnership will cease training and monitoring visits. However, the Partnership will continue communicating with the schools on a regular basis to monitor progress and will set up a mechanism through the Ministry of Education or another NGO to send new Partnership videos to refresh the Learning Center's educational content.

<b>Caprivi Education Region</b>	
Brendan Simbwaye Combined School*	Year 2, Phase 3
Bukalo Primary School*	Year 2, Phase 3
Isize Combined School*	Year 2, Phase 3
Ngoma Primary School*	Year 2, Phase 3
<b>Erongo Education Region</b>	
Kamwandi Primary School (Henties Bay)	Year 3, Phase 6

<b>Kavango Education Region</b>	
Kasote Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
Kayengona Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
Ncamagoro Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
Rundu College of Education	Year 3, Phase 6
<b>Khomas Education Region</b>	
Groot Aub Junior Secondary School	Year 3, Phase 6
<b>Kunene Education Region</b>	
Jack Francis Combined School (Outjo)	Year 3, Phase 6
<b>Ohangwena Education Region</b>	
Ongenga Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
<b>Omusati Education Region</b>	
Niita Yitula Junior Secondary School*	Year 2, Phase 3
Olupumbu Combined School*	Year 2, Phase 3
<b>Oshana Education Region</b>	
Amutanga Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
Ondjora Combined School	Year 3 Phase 6
<b>Oshikoto Education Region</b>	
Onamulunga Combined School	Year 3, Phase 6
Onathinghe Combined School	Year 2, Phase 3

All of these schools, with the exception of one site whose equipment was stolen (*please see Page 8*), are on track with project timelines and are successfully using Learning Center facilities for classroom and community use.

As part of the drive to build sustainable video libraries with curriculum-specific content, Centers such as Ongenga Primary School are making efforts to identify and record new educational programs using MultiChoice's DSTV satellite service. This is a direct result of the work that the Partnership has undertaken to encourage schools to independently seek ways to enhance learning opportunities and outlets through existing videos and to record new educational programs that can be used in future learning programs. The recorded video programs contribute and complement the gap that exists for instructional and pedagogic programs in Namibia. Some of the video titles that have been recorded are listed below:

- Mathematics: Properties of triangles
- English Language Nouns: Common, Proper and Collective and abstract nouns
- Grammar: Why we need to edit
- Using a dictionary
- Words
- Sport: Arsenal vs. Blackburn Rovers;
- Linear functions and graphs
- Sine and cosine graphs
- Manipulating expression, products, and the distributive law

As teachers practice using the technology and the programming, they have begun to appreciate the video resources as key educational tools that enhance curriculum delivery and allow for more versatile application across a school's curriculum and among different levels of learners.

Matthew Shikongo, a Grade 7 teacher from Ongenga Primary School, has this to say about the project:

*“For me to use the equipment, I don’t have problems. In fact it has become part of me that I consider it to be the nerve center of information at the school...for all the subjects. It all depends on the teacher’s creativity. I love using the tape on gymnastics for my Physical Education lessons and my learners love it too!”<sup>1</sup>*

Teachers like Matthew reflect a high level of commitment and resourcefulness in using Partnership videos to complement local curriculum objectives and in recording curriculum-relevant programs from DSTV to add to their own video library.

In a different context, at a teacher training college in Rundu, Mrs. Alfreda Muituti has seen the value that the technology, programming and training has delivered in enabling the college to produce graduate teachers who are competent in using the equipment. During a session with the Partnership’s trainer, Ndo Mbambo, Mrs. Muituti reported that technology has become the reality of every classroom and a key tool in the college’s core teaching approach:

*“We don’t want our teachers to visit the schools and find TVs that they can not use. It is time such institutions like ours realize where we are heading to and put in the effort to keep pace with the [technology] changes around us!”*

## **Achievements in 2005**

### ***The Project in Action***

All of the schools in Namibia that currently have equipment installed are tying the new technology to their lesson plans. The monitoring and support that has been given to the schools by Partnership trainers and management confirm that these schools are indeed committed to, and benefiting from, the project. Some of the comments attest to the increase in the use of the project. More than 600 teachers have already been trained, while more learners, including orphans, benefit from the project. The quality of learning has improved and access to resources has ensured that all learners do have access to complementing resources.

For example, a lecturer at Rundu College of Education confidently referred to how her design students are using the Fashion Channel on DSTV to get ideas for designing the gowns that contribute to their coursework: “My students used the Fashion Channel to get ideas for their garment designs, making their garments excellent this year!”

At Olupumbu Combined School, the principal, Mr. Sydney Simone, reported that he is “pleased that the teachers’ mindset has been completely changed by this technology” and adds that it is “very useful for curriculum delivery.” He recognizes that while the teachers have mastered the use of technology for curriculum issues, more remains to be done with the learners to ensure that they see the educational value of television.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew is also the Volunteer Coordinator at the center. He plays a very big role in making sure that teachers at the school receive training so that they are able to use the programming and to operate the equipment for lesson delivery. He has been instrumental in ensuring that the center has 10 three-hour tapes full of recordings of various programs with specific curriculum topics.

### ***Training and Monitoring***

Throughout the year, the Partnership trainers have conducted training and supported all the schools in Namibia. Beyond covering primary training in all the schools included in the project, Partnership trainers have also coordinated refresher-training workshops for all schools in Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Omusati Education Regions. Additional training is planned before the schools graduate in 2006.

With particular regard to the training, the Partnership's regional master trainer has spent two and half weeks in Namibia conducting training workshops with all the schools. He also has played a key-monitoring role in assessing progress among schools in Katima Mulilo. His time is spent focusing on training all teachers on effective methodologies to integrate the programming with the school curriculum. The success of this has led to an increased interest in leveraging the program's technology in additional curricula areas.

### ***New Programs for all Learning Centers***

The Partnership has added more titles to its library and, with the assistance of Namibian teachers, has produced and distributed customized new educational videos to meet the needs of local communities in Africa. These programs are:

- Program 25: The Science of Pregnancy
- Program 26: Birth Around the World
- Program 27: Marvels of Engineering
- Program 28: Physics I: Matter and Energy
- Program 29: Physics II: Matter in Motion

Already the schools are reporting that these new programs are complementing their mathematics and science syllabi.

Other schools have reported an increase in the amount of program content that has been recorded from DSTV, resulting in an increase in each school's library of tapes housed in each Learning Center. For example, the Partnership coordinator for Ongenga Primary School continues to record programs from DSTV that focus on English and Mathematics.

### ***DSTV services in the Learning Centers***

In the June 2005 report, The Partnership reported that MultiChoice-Namibia has advised the Partnership that, effective June 2005, the 18 Learning Centers will migrate from the full DSTV bouquet to an educational bouquet. This migration has not been implemented; however, Multichoice has advised that it will be implemented in 2006. After the implementation the schools will receive the following education channels:

- Channel 40, BBC Prime
- Channel 53, SABC Africa
- Channel 65, Discovery Channel



- Channel 66, National Geographic
- Channel 67, Animal Planet
- Channel 68, History Channel
- Channel 101, Namibian Broadcasting Corporation

## **Challenges**

### ***School continues to seek replacement equipment***

As previously reported, Onathinghe Combined School lost its equipment as a result of theft and was inactive for a few months. To resolve this setback, the school and its community took the initiative to replace the TV and successfully lobbied the security company in charge of guarding the school to provide another TV. Although the school's initiative in replacing the stolen equipment signals a proactive approach to sustain the project, the TV that was provided by the security company malfunctioned. The school is currently seeking additional options to find a working TV. The Partnership looks forward to working with Onathinghe to help them catch up as soon as the TV is available.

### ***No-Cost Extension and Budget Re-Alignment***

The Partnership recently submitted a request to USAID-Namibia to extend the project, at no cost, from December 31, 2005 to July 31, 2006. This request is primarily driven by the four-month delay incurred in the beginning of the project – the result of challenges experienced prior to the selection and intensive training of project schools. As the attached letter outlines, the Partnership believes that there is a strong case for extending the official deadline of the project and subsequently re-aligning the budget. This action will provide resources that may directly be applied to activities related to completing refresher training and sustaining the impact of the programming and instructional tools after formal funding has ceased. *Please see Attachment A: Letter of Request for 6-month No-Cost Extension and Budget Re-Alignment.*

### ***NETA Project Evaluation***

It is the Partnership's understanding that the Global Development Alliance has undertaken a project evaluation. To date, no draft evaluation has been sent to the Partnership for review. The coordinator for the evaluation has reported that they have requested a project extension to complete the evaluation. It is our understanding that USAID intended for this evaluation to also include the Partnership project. If this is not achieved, the Partnership will have to work with USAID to see how best to ensure that an evaluation is undertaken in all the learning centers.

## **Looking Ahead**

The 12 Learning Centers funded by USAID-Namibia and MultiChoice-Namibia will be in their final phase of the project beginning in January 2006. The Partnership confirms that these schools will graduate from the Partnership program between April and June 2006.

For the next few months, the Partnership will focus on the following priorities:



- Provide training and monitoring in eight of the 12 USAID/MCN sponsored sites by regional Partnership personnel.
- Continue to work with USAID-Namibia and MultiChoice-Namibia to aggressively seek new funding.
- Work with NETA and USAID to ensure that the evaluation is conducted in the learning centers.
- Continue to work with the schools to ensure project success and sustainability after graduation between April and June 2006.

In closing, we believe that our successful track record in Namibia has served as a pilot for future collaboration with USAID in growing the number of Partnership Learning Centers throughout the country. As research emerges from our long-term impact studies in other countries, the case is strong for greatly expanding the number of schools in Namibia so that more people may benefit from the technology, library of video programming and teacher training provided by the Partnership. We hope that USAID shares our commitment to this important endeavor by inviting the Partnership to participate in future funding opportunities in Namibia.